

### Lucky on American Democracy

Mr. Lecky is one of the three Englishmen, the other two being Prof. Goldwin Smith and Mr. Bryce, who comprehend how widely different is the position of the American House of Repre-

the vulgarlest and most ignorant demagogue, partly out of office and doubtful of its future prospects naturally wishes to change the character of the electorate, and its leaders calculate

The efficacious method of checking municipal corruption is the centralization of responsibility. Mr. Lecky is aware that recently we have had recourse to this expedient in the United States. He does not doubt that the centralization of elective office has produced the effect of diminishing popular control by confusing issues, dividing and obscuring responsibility, weakening the moral significance of each action, and bewildering the ordinary elector, so that he knows little or nothing of the merits and demerits of the candidates. The ballot paper was thrown into the hands of a small knot of wire pullers. The system has, accordingly, grown up among us of vesting the Mayors of towns with an almost autocratic authority, and of making them irresponsible to the people who elect them in their city. These Mayors are themselves elected by popular suffrage for periods ranging from one to five years; they are liable to impeachment if they abuse their functions; the State Legislature retains the right of giving or withdrawing their office, and exercising the right of removal. The power of the Mayor is, in this country, in some States, according to recent constitutional amendments, far greater than the power delegated to the corresponding officer in European cities. With slight restrictions, he has the right to call to and dismiss all the heads of all the city departments. He can increase the right of veto and supervision over all his proceedings. He is responsible for the

any money. Another aggravating cause of the vices of American government which Mr. Lecky supposes to be removable is "the rule that the person elected to either House of Congress must be a resident in the State for which he is elected." The rule of residence is, in his opinion, a rule of exclusion, and he has the choice of able and efficient men. This is one of the remarks which show how little Mr. Lecky comprehends the state of things in this country. It is simply inconceivable that one of our States would allow itself to be represented in Congress by a Representative who was not in the Senate, by the choice of another State. It is, indeed, indeed, from time to time, a matter of current gossip that one of the Senators from New York is practically a resident of the State of New York. As a matter of fact, the legal residence of the Senator in question has always been in Ohio.

Mr. Lecky sees many things to criticize in the workings of both our Federal and State Governments. In the end he acknowledges that, so far as national interests are concerned, an admirably efficient Constitution, enforced by a powerful Executive, would be the best that we could have. He admits that the present system will limit the possibilities of misgovernment, and that the rights that men value the most are secured beyond the reach of a tyrannical majority. Congress is debarred by the Constitution from making any law prohibiting slavery, and he says that the right of religious freedom of speech and the press or the right of assembly, or the right of petition. No person can be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. These are the main articles, in fine, of what British statesmen would call the rights of Englishmen, which are guaranteed, and property is so fenced round by constitutional provisions that confiscatory legislation becomes almost impossible. The sound judgment of the Supreme Court concerning the income tax brought into clear view the magnitude of the rights of Englishmen. At the same time the number and magnitude of the majorities that are required

At *Harwarden with Gladstone, and Other Papers.*

We referred about a year ago to a charming collection of essays, for the most part descriptive of English rural scenes and country life, and entitled *The Land and the Lord*. Some of them bore the same hand, that of Mr. WILLIAM H. HERIDEN, we now have a second series of papers called *At Harwarden with Mr. Gladstone, and other Transatlantic Experiences* (T. Y. Crowell & Co.). Answered to the eponymous essay with which it opens, is a paper on *England*, with particular interest the account of a visit to the old English town of Yarmouth, and the two papers respectively devoted to "Law, Lawyers, and Law Courts" and to the "The House of Commons." The author knows his England and all its important features, and his facts are fed the truth of Bacon's saying, that what a man carries in travel is but a dividend on the knowledge he takes with him. In descriptive writing, as in landscape painting, the instructed eye and the skilful hand are obviously even more important than the intrinsic beauty of the thing depicted; indeed, Heriden, in a well-known paradox, maintained them to be the only things essential. Why should I, asked Heriden, go to Egypt, when without going there, I can give you a far better idea of the land and people of Egypt than I could if I can run nine-tenths of the way who see me? This was manifestly the very reason why Sheridan should have gone to Egypt. The idealizing is, of course, to have men and places of interest portrayed by one who is both a scholar and a traveller. Heriden is both, and as he is trained his literary faculties, the better for the multitude of readers who have no time for foreign travels and are constrained to get their information at second hand. The millions of us in this predicament have cause to thank him for his book, and to thank him all the more joyously for the delight of travel, and who not only divine what we would like to see, but who

preparable, he was removed from school work, and during the home period of his life made little progress in his studies. It had truthfully been said of Eton that, in the early part of this century, it was governed in a noisy way, and lazy and incapable boys passed through it with little to show for the years they spent there. For Eton, too, a marginal addition to the list: "From Eton, however, came a nation: its first formation, and because, if not so brilliant, yet a diligent student." It is also noted that "at Eton he had one especial talent and highly prized advantage in forming a close and intimate friendship with the foremost youth among his contemporaries in the school. This was Arthur Henry Hallam, the eldest son of Henry Hallam, the distinguished historian, and the subject of Tennyson's wonderful poem, *"Memoriam."* In another place, the original allusion is ascribing to Mr. Hallam the remark which he once made to the *Edinburgh* as Commons in 1834, the assertion was made that "he was a Conservative then, and was described by Macaulay as 'the hope of the stern and unbending Tories.' Especially in this is the allusion to this made in the margin. It is to be regretted that he admitted by himself with respect to ecclesiastical questions; but, as to other matters, he considers it as untrue and contradicted by the tenor of his early speeches. His language is so candid not then understand the value of liberty for a power to be a power, and to be a necessary condition of all high political excellence." We note, finally, that in his original occurred this remark: "His early political bias he has attributed in a great measure to his training at Oxford." It is not learned, however, when this was said, since, he does not set a due value on the imperishable and inalienable privileges of human liberty." In Mr. Hallam's revision of the *proofs* here, we read: "he also says that Oxford, the Oxford of his day, taught him to value truth, and to follow its lead."

We hear with surprise that while in time of

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its kind appears in a recent number of *Popular Science* magazine, Vol. 70, Oulindin, an easily accessible popularization of the scientific results of two components, of the fourth and sixth magnitudes respectively, the apparent orbit being a narrow ellipse of such size that the two stars can always be seen separated by small telescopes. Astronomers have not been able to determine this system, so that no observations of it have been recorded, so that any other double star in the firmament of our sky is more distant than the stars in the heavens, while it has also the true irregularity of motion being such as to make it impossible that the law of gravity  $\propto 1/r^2$  holds in this system. Coming down to the recent observations of the University of Vienna, the regular variation through a series of years, the regular character, which can only be explained by the existence of a dark body in the system; the period of this variation is about thirty-six years, the distance of the larger component from the smaller being about three times that of the distance between those of Neptune and Uranus, the combined mass of the three bodies about one and one-half times that of our sun.